

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the specification. The Examiner objected to claims 27, 34, 42, 49 and 55 for informalities. The Examiner rejected claims 27-33 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over United States Patent 5,657,242 to Sekiyama, et al. (Sekiyama). The Examiner allowed claims 35-41 and 50-54. Applicants have canceled claims 27-33 and amended claims 34, 42, 45, 49 and 55. Applicants have not added or canceled any other claim. Accordingly, claims 34-55 will be pending in the application after entry of this Amendment.

I. Objection to the Specification

The Examiner objected to the specification. Specifically, the Examiner objected to the title of the invention as not descriptive. Applicants have amended the title to be clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed. In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to the specification.

II. Objection to Claims 34, 42, 49 and 55

The Examiner objected to claims 34, 42, 49 and 55. Specifically the Examiner requested sufficient antecedent bases for "the set of sub-regions" of claim 27, and for "the center of the sub-regions" of claim 34. Applicants have amended claim 27 to recite "a set of sub-regions" and claim 34 to recite "a center of the sub-regions." For claims 42 and 49, the Examiner requested clarification on how routing paths store a route. Applicants have amended claims 42 and 49 to recite "using at least one diagonal routing path and at least one non-diagonal routing path to define a route." The Examiner also objected to claim 55 due to non-sequential alphabetic enumeration of clauses relative to claim 50. Applicants have amended claim 55 to reflect

sequential clause enumeration. In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to claims 34, 42, 49 and 55.

III. Rejection of Claims 27-33 Under §103(a)

The Examiner rejected claims 27-33 under §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sekiyama. Applicants have canceled claims 27-33. In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the §103(a) rejection of claims 27-33.

IV. Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner allowed claims 35-41 and 50-54. Applicants respectfully thank the Examiner for the allowance of these claims.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that all claims, namely claims 34-55, are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the objections and rejections is requested. Allowance is earnestly solicited at the earliest possible date.

This Amendment is submitted within three months of the mailing date of the Office Action. Accordingly, Applicants believe no petition or fee is required. However, in the unlikely event that the Patent Office determines that additional fees, extension, and/or other relief is required, Applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Assistant Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or fees due in connection with the filing of this document, or to credit any overpayment, to **Deposit Account: 50-1128** referencing docket: SPLX.P0022. However, the Assistant Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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